



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Public Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-6843 phone
202-219-0910 fax

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 24, 2006
David Barna 202 208-6843
Gerry Gaumer 220 208-4989

National Parks Offer Good Old Fashioned Fun for Visitors

Washington, D.C. – The National Park Service (NPS) is pleased to kick-off the upcoming travel season with many new and exciting adventures awaiting park visitors, as well as traditional programs that families come back time and again to enjoy. From the shores of Maine and Alaska to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to the warm beaches of California and the Virgin Islands, national parks offer something for everyone.

NPS Director Fran Mainella said, “These magnificent places pay homage to our ancestors and inspire our children to become better stewards of the parks for tomorrow. National parks have the power to stir our souls, reinvigorate our spirit, and renew our commitment. They provide incredible opportunities to experience the marvelous natural and cultural heritage of our country. I welcome you to our parks.”

The National Park Service has developed and made available a web site to help inform visitors about what’s new in national parks this year. Learn about the many park events, activities, and new facilities that have been planned or are available for the upcoming travel season. Visit the “National Parks: The Place to be for Family Fun” website at: <http://www.nps.gov> to learn more about what’s happening in national parks across the country.

Some summer highlights at our parks include:

- On June 10 and 11, visitors to Antietam National Battlefield will have the opportunity to experience an *Artillery Weekend*. The rolling terrain and the heavy reliance on artillery by Union and Confederates made Antietam one of the most significant artillery battles in the Civil War. Artillery firing demonstrations will be held throughout Saturday and Sunday.
- The annual 3-day *CanalFest* at the C&O Canal National Historical Park will be held on July 7-9. The park will be filled with activities for visitors, including music, walking tours, programs, exhibits, crafts and canal boat replica tours, food and more.

(more)

- Celebrate Hawaii's unique cultural heritage at the 26th Annual Hawaii Volcanoes National Park *Cultural Festival*! The free festival will be held on Saturday, July 15th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the park's Kahuku unit in Ka'u. Enjoy hula and Hawaiian music. Learn Hawaiian arts and crafts. Make a lei, feather kahili, and lauhala bracelet. Taste Hawaiian foods and play traditional games and musical instruments. Be sure to bring water, sunscreen, a groundmat and rainjacket. This will be the 26th year that the park festival has brought together kupuna (elder), keiki (child), kama'aina (resident), and malihini (newcomer) for a day of fun and sharing.
- On June 15 and again on August 10, Eisenhower National Historic Site invites visitors to join a National Park Ranger for a walk through downtown Gettysburg to learn more about the Eisenhower's' life in the Gettysburg community.
- Visitors to Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site can experience the 1840s with teachers, students and living history volunteers and staff perfecting their 19th century skills at a special *Educator's Encampment*. The encampment, which begins June 8, trains participants in presenting living history to the public. The event is open for the public to view ongoing demonstrations on Saturday and Sunday, June 10 – 11.

The National Park Service always recommends stopping by the park's visitor center to get the latest, most up-to-date park information. In addition, NPS reminds visitors that safety is critical, and hikers should stay on marked trails and let family members and/or friends know their whereabouts. Remember to dress appropriately for the elements and activities you are going to engage in, and it's always best to have plenty of water on hand. Parks Rangers are easily recognizable in their distinctive green and gray uniforms. Ask questions...that's what they are there for!

-NPS-